

## **Teacher Implementation Plan: Japan**

**Course:** Modern World History  
**Topic:** Japan's Article IX ("No War") Clause:  
**Lesson Title:** Japan's No War Clause  
**Time Frame:** 1 class period

### **Materials:**

1. [Article 9 and the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty](#)
2. [Japan takes historic step from post-war pacifism, OKs fighting for allies](#)

**Objectives:** To understand Japan's pacifist Constitution after World War II and its role in the contemporary world.

**Overview:** **Students will learn about** the origins of Article IX in Japan's constitution, how it has been interpreted over the years, and its advisability going forward.

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### **Day One:**

(This lesson assumes that students have learned about Japanese militarism leading up before and during World War II.)

**ARTICLE 9. (1) *Aspiring sincerely to an international peace based on justice and order, the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes.***

**(2) *In order to accomplish the aim of the preceding paragraph, land, sea, and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained. The right of belligerency of the state will not be recognized.***

1. Print copies of Article IX from Japan's constitution or project them on the screen:
2. Read the text aloud and ask students to explain what they think it means.
3. Discuss their interpretations and whether they think that the clause is a good idea. Should the United States amend our constitution to include such a clause? Should all countries? Why or why not?
4. Tell students that Japan ranks in the top ten nations in terms of military spending. How is this possible, given Article IX? Explain that the interpretations of the article and feelings about it have evolved since the constitution was adopted in 1947. Distribute copies of **Article 9 and the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty**. Have students answer the discussion questions at the end of the essay (orally or written).
5. Explain that in 2014 the Japan's leaders significantly changed how the clause would be interpreted to allow Japan more military options. Read "Japan Takes Historic Step..." (out loud or printed).
6. Conduct a Four Corners debate with prompts such as:
  - a. Japan should be allowed to use its military like other countries.
  - b. Japan should amend its constitution if it wants to use its military.

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- c. Japan's neighbors are justified in continuing to fear Japanese militarism.
  - d. The United States should continue its protective military policy for Japan.
  - e. Japan should pay the United States for its military protection.
7. If desired, have student write an essay (in class or homework) supporting their opinion about this issue.

**Extensions:**

Show the film *JAPAN, THE EMPEROR AND THE ARMY* by Kenichi Watanabe.

**Ohio Standards**

1. World War II devastated most of Europe and Asia, led to the occupation of Eastern Europe and Japan, and began the atomic age.
2. The global balance of power shifted with the end of the Cold War. Wars, territorial disputes, ethnic and cultural conflicts, acts of terrorism, advances in technology, expansion of human rights, and changes in the global economy present new challenges.